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(c) whether he has received complaints that this requirement causes considerable inconvenience to owners of motor vehicles, and in some cases seriously delays the payment of the tax; and

(d) whether he will consider increasing the number of licensing officers and improving the facilities for and simplifying the method of payment of the tax?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes. Attention is invited to section 5 (3) (a) of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931.

(c) Yes.

(d) This question is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know what necessity there is for the production of a registration certificate once the licence fee has been accepted by the Government every time the licence fee is paid?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I have answered that question, Sir. The law as it now stands requires it. The question is being considered."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"In view of the great inconvenience that is being caused, will the Government consider the desirability of amending that section?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I have already answered the question."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know in how many cases so far have duplicate registration certificates been obtained by reason of this provision of law?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"I have no information."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know what action has been taken by the Government on the complaints received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"That matter is under consideration."

Public Health

Leprosy in South Kanara district.

* 386 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to give the following information—

(a) whether investigation has been made to ascertain why Sherwa in South Kanara district is badly affected by leprosy;

(b) if so, what are the results of the investigation;

(c) if there are statistics showing the incidence of leprosy at Sherwa, what are the figures for the years for which statistics are available;

(d) what is the result of the work of the Special Officer sent to Sherwa to train the local medical officer in the treatment of leprosy;

(e) what was the number of lepers treated in the local hospital;

(f) whether it is true that the treatment has been given up; and

(g) if so, for what reasons?

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A.—(a) Yes. The station was visited by the Medical Officer in charge of leprosy propaganda and survey work.

(b) The Medical Officer states as follows:—

This disease which is an endemic one has probably been introduced some decades back by a leprous person and is now on the increase, but not to an alarming extent. Unhygienic conditions and ignorance of the infective stages of the disease are the chief causes of the spread in this area.

(c) The total incidence for Sherwa and in some of the surrounding villages within a radius of three miles is 150 for a population of 24,000. No further figures are available.

(d) The Special Leprosy Officer who worked in South Kanara district during the latter part of 1930 trained the medical officer in charge of the Local Fund dispensary, Sherwa, in "Leprosy, diagnosis and treatment." He opened an out-patient leprosy clinic at Sherwa and gave advice to the President, Udipi Taluk Board. He also got the leprosy clinic equipped with the necessary drugs and out-fit; and treatment was carried on in the vacant room behind the dispensary.

(e) The total attendance for the six months the clinic was in existence amounted to 1,150 and the total number of cases which sought treatment for leprosy was 98.

(f) Yes.

(g) The reasons given by the President, Taluk Board, Udipi, are:—

(1) The finances of the Taluk Board are too poor to bear the charges connected with the leprosy clinic.

(2) The charges should be borne by the District Board under the provisions of the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act of 1930.

The Surgeon-General pointed out to the President, District Board, South Kanara, the advisability of providing funds for re-opening the leprosy clinic but the District Board has not so far sanctioned any funds for the purpose.

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"May I know what charges were incurred during the time the clinic was in existence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"Notice."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"May I know whether the District Boards cannot be compelled to provide the funds required?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"No, Sir, not under the law."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"If not, cannot the required funds be provided by the Government having regard to the fact that it is very necessary to eradicate leprosy in a small town like this in the whole district as there is danger of the disease spreading to the other parts of the district and even beyond it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I quite realize the seriousness of the situation, but that applies equally to all places which are affected with leprosy. I am afraid that under the present financial stringency, the Government cannot provide the funds."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" May I know what action Government propose to take? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I have already answered it."

Supply of drinking water to Pedda and Chinna Matams in Kandimallayya Palli, Badvel taluk.

* 387 *Q.*—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received resolutions adopted by the eighth session of the Andhra Provincial Viswabrahmana Conference which was convened under the auspices of the All-India Viswakarman Liberal Federation urging the Government that water may be supplied to the Pedda and Chinna Matams in Kandimallayya Palli, Badvel taluk, Cuddapah district, from the stream near Poleramma temple through pipes; and

(*b*) what steps the Government propose to take to supply drinking water to these mutts?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Government do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Withholding of tasdiks due to temples in South Kanara.

* 388 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the tasdiks due to the several temples in South Kanara have not been paid during the last three years; if so, why and at whose instance and under what powers the said amounts were withheld; and

(*b*) what are the temples, the amounts due to each and the years in which they were not paid?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A copy [a] of the letter from the Collector of South Kanara on the subject which contains the necessary information is placed on the table. The tasdiks were withheld by the Collector for the reasons stated in his letter.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT :—" May I know whether the Collector stopped the payment of tasdiks at his own instance or at the instance of the President of the Committee ? "

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 332 infra.